

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
 - 2 sending a message from a client to a server, the message to establish a
 - 3 secure connection;
 - 4 intercepting the data at a security system associated with the server to
 - 5 perform authentication functions; and
 - 6 establishing a secure connection if proper authentications are performed.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the proper authentications comprise
 - 2 determining if the server is authentic if the client has requested
 - 3 authentication.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the proper authentications additionally
 - 2 comprise determining if the client is authentic if the server has requested
 - 3 authentication.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said proper authentications comprise
 - 2 validating digital certificates.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, additionally comprising decrypting the message if
 - 2 the message is encrypted.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the authentication functions comprise:
 - 2 the server requesting authentication from the client;

- 3 receiving a client certificate from the client; and
 - 4 determining if the client is authentic, said determining occurring at the
 - 5 security system on behalf of the server.
-
- 1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the message comprises a digital signature
 - 2 to validate the identity of the client, and said performing the proper
 - 3 authentications comprises validating the digital signature.
-
- 1 8. A method comprising:
 - 2 receiving on a device associated with a server a client hello message from
 - 3 a client, the client hello message indicating a request to establish a
 - 4 secure connection with the server;
 - 5 in response to the client hello message, the device sending a server hello
 - 6 message on behalf of the server to acknowledge the client hello
 - 7 message;
 - 8 if authentication is requested by at least one of the client and the server,
 - 9 then exchanging authentication information;
 - 10 sending a server hello done message from the device to the client, said
 - 11 sending being done on behalf of the server;
 - 12 receiving a finished message from the client; and
 - 13 sending a finished message to the client from the device, said sending
 - 14 being done on behalf of the server.

- 1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein said exchanging authentication
2 information comprises:
3 if the client hello message includes a request for authentication from the
4 server, then sending from the device authentication information to
5 the client on behalf of the server; and
6 if the server requests authentication from the client, then receiving
7 authentication information from the client.
- 1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein said sending a finished message to the
2 client from the device on behalf of the server comprises:
3 determining if the client is authentic; and
4 if the client has been authenticated, then establishing a secure connection
5 between the client and the server.
- 1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the authentication information comprises
2 a client certificate, and said determining if the client is authentic comprises
3 validating the client certificate.
- 1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein validating the client certificate comprises
2 determining that the client certificate is not on a certificate revocation list.
- 1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the authentication information
2 additionally comprises a digital signature, and said determining if the client
3 is authentic additionally comprises verifying the digital signature.

1 14. The method of claim 8, additionally comprising decrypting the message if
2 the message is encrypted.

1 15. An apparatus comprising:

2 an application module to:

3 receive incoming data sent from a client and destined for a given

4 server of a plurality of servers in a data center; and

5 route the data to an authentication module to validate the identity of

6 the client;

7 a wired device authentication module associated with the plurality of

8 servers to:

9 receive the incoming data from the application module if the

10 incoming data is sent using wired authentication information;

11 and

12 authenticate the wired device;

13 a wireless device authentication module associated with the plurality of

14 servers to:

15 receive the incoming data from the application module if the

16 incoming data is sent using wireless authentication

17 information; and

18 authenticate the wireless device;

19 a wired device decryption module associated with the plurality of servers
 20 to:
 21 receive the incoming data from the application module if the
 22 incoming data is encrypted using a wired security protocol;
 23 and
 24 decrypt the data to plain text; and

25 a wireless device decryption module associated with the plurality of
 26 servers to:
 27 receive the incoming data from the application module if the
 28 incoming data is encrypted using a wireless security
 29 protocol; and
 30 decrypt the data to plain text.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the wired device authentication
 2 module and the wireless device authentication module additionally support
 3 authentication functions for authenticating the given server by:
 4 requesting server certificates from a certificate authority;
 5 storing the server certificates; and
 6 sending at least one of the server certificates to a client in response to the
 7 client's request for authentication.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the client is a wireless client, and said

2 sending comprises sending a long-lived certificate and a short-lived
3 certificate to the wireless client.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said requesting server certificates
2 from the certificate authority comprises requesting the server certificates
3 at user-defined intervals.

1 19. A system comprising:
2 one or more servers to exchange data with clients; and
3 a security system associated with the one or more servers to:
4 support authentication functions for authenticating the identity of the
5 one or more servers; and
6 authenticate the identity of clients requesting a secure connection
7 with the one or more servers.

1 20. The system of claim 19, wherein said authentication functions for
2 authenticating the identity of the one or more servers comprises:
3 requesting server certificates from a certificate authority; and
4 in response to a client requesting authentication from one of the one or
5 more servers, sending a server certificate to the client.

1 21. The system of claim 19, wherein said authenticating the identity of clients
2 requesting a secure connection with the one or more servers comprises:

3 updating a certificate revocation list (CRL);
4 receiving a client certificate from a client requesting a secure connection
5 with a given one of the one or more servers associated with the
6 security system;
7 determining if the client certificate is on the CRL; and
8 if the client certificate is on the CRL, then denying the client access to the
9 given server.

1 22. An apparatus comprising:

2 a first means to:

3 receive incoming data sent from a client and destined for a given
4 server of a plurality of servers in a data center; and
5 route the data to a means for validating the identity of the client by
6 authenticating a device associated with the client;

7 a second means to:

8 receive the incoming data from the first means if the incoming data
9 is sent using wired authentication information; and

10 authenticate the wired device;

11 a third means to:

12 receive the incoming data from the first means if the incoming data

13 is sent using wireless authentication information; and

14 authenticate the wireless device;

15 a fourth means to:

16 receive the incoming data from the first means if the incoming data

17 is encrypted using a wired security protocol; and

18 decrypt the data to plain text; and

19 a fifth means to:

20 receive the incoming data from the first means if the incoming data

21 is encrypted using a wireless security protocol; and

22 decrypt the data to plain text.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the second and third means
2 additionally support authentication functions for authenticating the given
3 server by:

4 requesting server certificates from a certificate authority;

5 storing the server certificates; and

6 sending at least one of the server certificates to a client in response to the

7 client's request for authentication.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the client is a wireless client, and said

2 sending comprises sending a long-lived certificate and a short-lived

certificate to the wireless client.

25. The machine-readable medium of claim 23, wherein said requesting server certificates from the certificate authority comprises requesting the server certificates at user-defined intervals.

26. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sequences of instructions, the sequences of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the following:

receive a message from a client to a server, the message to establish a secure connection;

intercept the data at a security system associated with the server to perform authentication functions; and

establish a secure connection if proper authentications are performed.

27. The machine-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the proper authentications comprise determining if the server is authentic if the client has requested authentication.

28. The machine-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the message comprises a client certificate to validate the identity of the client, and said performing the proper authentications comprises validating the client certificate.

29. The machine-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the authentication functions comprise:

3 the security system requesting authentication from the client on behalf of
4 the server;
5 receiving a client certificate from the client; and
6 determining if the client is authentic, said determining occurring at the
7 security system on behalf of the server.

1 30. An apparatus comprising:

2 at least one processor; and

3 a machine-readable medium having instructions encoded thereon, which
4 when executed by the processor, are capable of directing the
5 processor to:

6 receive a message from a client to a server, the message to
7 establish a secure connection;

8 intercept the data at a security system associated with the server to
9 perform authentication functions; and

10 establish a secure connection if proper authentications are
11 performed.

1 31. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the proper authentications comprise
2 determining if the server is authentic if the client has requested
3 authentication.

1 32. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the message comprises a client

